• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XX MARCH, 1953 NUMBER 3

F. E. Weymouth Plant Is Formally Dedicated

The District's Softening and Filtration Plant has been officially dedicated as the "F. E. Weymouth Memorial Softening and Filtration Plant".

The dedicatory exercises took place Wednesday morning, March 18, in the forecourt of the Plant, which is situated near La Verne, and was marked by the formal unveiling of two bronze plaques placed on the concrete columns flanking the main entrance of the building.

Those attending the dedication exercises were limited to District directors, former directors, District staff members and employees, and several former District staff members.

Participating in the ceremony were Board Chairman Joseph Jensen, who acted as Master of Ceremonies, Director Victor H. Rossetti, General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, and former Board Chairman William Paul Whitsett, one of the original Board members from Los Angeles.

One of the bronze plaques bears the names of the officers of the Board and the District, the constituent cities and areas of the District and the directors representing those cities and areas. The other plaque bears the new official name of the Plant, a bas-relief bust of Mr. Weymouth, and the following inscription:

"Dedicated to the memory of F. E. Weymouth. As General Manager and Chief Engineer he directed with inspired engineering and executive leadership the planning and building of the Colorado River Aqueduct of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, 1929 to 1941. This monumental achievement marked the culmination of his career which has placed him for all time

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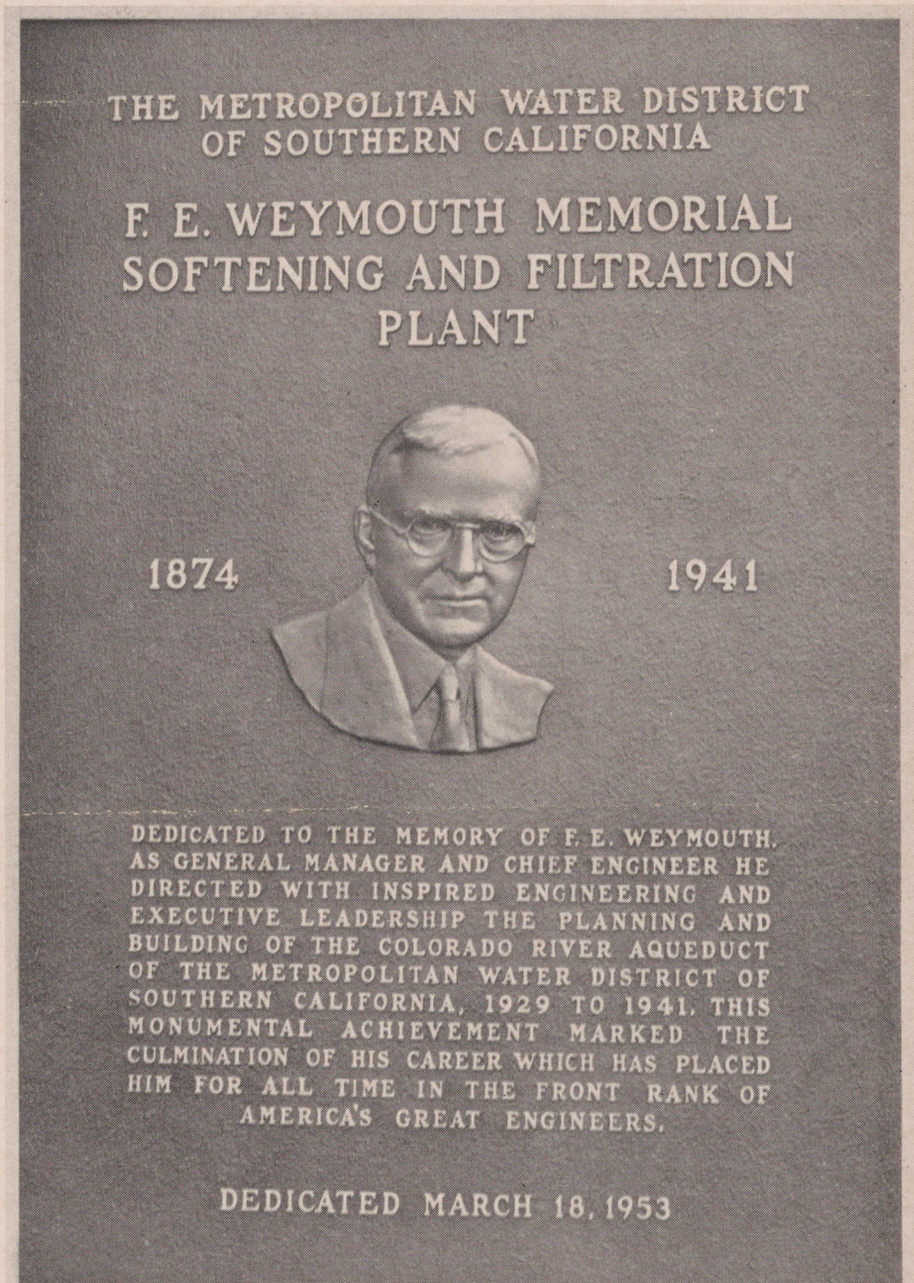
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
F. E. WEYMOUTH MEMORIAL
SOFTENING AND FILTRATION
PLANT
1874
1941
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF F. E. WEYMOUTH.
AS GENERAL MANAGER AND CHIEF ENGINEER HE
DIRECTED WITH INSPIRED ENGINEERING AND
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP THE PLANNING AND
BUILDING OF THE COLORADO RIVER AQUEDUCT
OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, 1929 TO 1941. THIS
MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT MARKED THE
CULMINATION OF HIS CAREER WHICH HAS PLACED
HIM FOR ALL TIME IN THE FRONT RANK OF
AMERICA'S GREAT ENGINEERS.
DEDICATED MARCH 18, 1953

The bronze plaque shown above was officially unveiled at ceremonies conducted by the District Board of Directors and staff members in the forecourt of the F. E. Weymouth Memorial Softening and Filtration Plant on March 18.

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THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

306 WEST THIRD STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Published monthly in the interest of Field and Office Workers on the Colorado River Aqueduct, and for the information of all other citizens of the Metropolitan Water District.

Vol. XX March, 1953 No. 3

Vice Chairman Butler Outlines District Plans

Vice Chairman Warren W. Butler of the District Board of Directors outlined steps that are being taken to assure this Southern California area adequate supplies of water for domestic, municipal, and industrial uses in the years ahead in a presentation made to members of the Natural Resources Section of the California State Chamber of Commerce meeting on March 25 in the Huntington Hotel in Pasadena.

Reading from the District's official statement of policy issued December 18 of last year, Mr. Butler said:

"The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is prepared, with its existing governmental powers and its present and projected distribution facilities, to provide its service area with adequate supplies of water to meet expanding and increasing needs in the years ahead. The District now is providing its service area with a supplemental water supply from the Colorado River. When and as additional water resources are required to meet increasing needs for domestic, industrial and municipal water, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California will be prepared to deliver such supplies.

"Establishment of overlapping and paralleling governmental authorities and water distribution facilities to service Southern California areas would place a wasteful and unnecessary financial burden upon all of the people of California, and particularly the residents of Southern California."

Vice Chairman Butler is Chairman of the Board's Water Problems and Public Relations Committee. He referred briefly to the large areas being added to the Metropolitan Water District by recent and continuing annexations.

One of the primary water responsibili-

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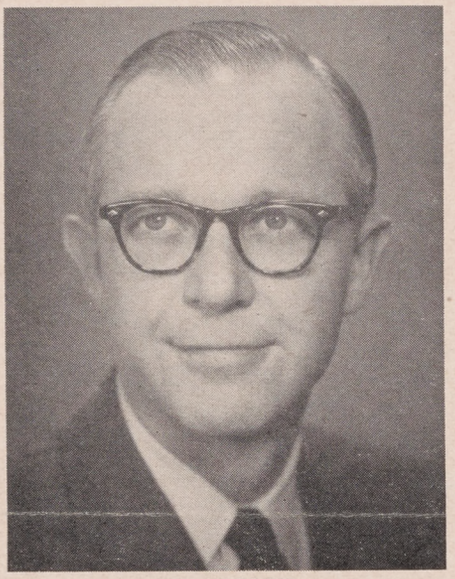

BEN HAGGOTT

Appoint Ben Haggott New District Director

Ben Haggott, President of the Palos Verdes Water Company, took his oath of office as a Director representing the West Basin Municipal Water District at the Metropolitan Water District Board meeting March 10. He is one of the two directors to which the West Basin is now entitled. He is serving with Robert E. Austin, who has represented that district area since it was annexed to the Metropolitan Water District in August of 1948.

The Metropolitan Water District Act provides that each constituent district area is entitled to at least one Director and an additional Director for each $300,000,000 assessed valuation. When the West Basin district recently reached and passed the $300,000,000 assessed valuation mark, Mr. Haggott was appointed as its second Director.

Director Haggott has been President of the Palos Verdes Water Company since 1938. He is also President of the West Basin Water Association.

He attended the University of California at Los Angeles, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He is married and lives with his family in Torrance.

Weymouth Plant

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in the front rank of America's great engineers."

In his opening remarks Chairman Jensen said:

"Mr. Weymouth devoted 12 years of his eventful and most productive life to

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For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed March, 1953, covering District operations for February, 1953.)

Colorado River — During the month the water level in Lake Mead dropped 5.43 feet to elevation 1157.13 feet on February 28, 1953, which was 15.13 feet higher than on February 29, 1952. Usable storage was 18,318,000 acre-feet, a decrease of 654,000 acre-feet for the month. At Hoover Dam the discharge averaged 18,700 cubic feet per second compared with 19,700 in January 1953. At Lake Havasu the water level varied but slightly between elevation 446.0 feet and 447.5 feet. Average discharge at Parker Dam was 18,200 cfs compared with 19,400 in January 1953.

Power and Pumping System — Pumping was resumed for the first time since the shutdown on December 26 to inspect the aqueduct system and make necessary repairs. A one-pump flow was started at Hayfield Plant on February 22. Peak delivery of energy to the Edison Company system was 151,800 kw. There was no delivery to the Parker system.

Distribution System — Water level in San Jacinto reservoir on February 28 was elevation 1500.12 feet representing storage of 1189 acre-feet. At Lake Mathews the water level at month's end was at elevation 1348.22 feet and storage was 86,755 acre-feet, a loss for the month of 8614 acre-feet. At the Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant Colorado River water was softened from an average natural hardness of 302 ppm to 125 ppm at an average rate of 109.4 cfs.

Construction — On the Garvey-Ascot cross feeder, 2,496 linear feet of 60-inch pipe was cast, for a total to date of 21,600 feet, 73 per cent of the contract quantity; and 1,410 feet of pipe was installed for a total of 12,140 feet or 41 per cent of the contract quantity. At Cajalco tunnel 715 feet was excavated, for a total to date of 2,160 or 29 per cent of the required length. At Garvey reservoir on the middle feeder 262,000 cubic yards of earth was moved in February, for a total to date of 460,000 cubic yards, or 14 per cent of the required quantity. Work on the northerly half of the San Diego Aqueduct by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation was continued.

Purchasing — Purchase orders issued totaled 275, amounting to approximately $60,000.

Left to right: Edgar A. Russell, Senior Electrical Engineer; Howard Mills, Los Angeles Director; former Long Beach Director William M. Cook; Gus A. Walker, one of the two directors now representing Long Beach, and Harris V. Crawshaw, Office Engineer, were among those who enjoyed a picnic lunch at the District's Lake Mathews reservoir following dedication of the plant.

Shown above is part of the crowd that gathered in the forecourt of the plant to hear the dedicatory exercises.

In the foreground Vice Chairman Warren W. Butler and Los Angeles Director Ransome W. Chase discuss District affairs. At right is Ralph Davis, Superintendent of the Plant.

Two former District Board Chairmen, William Paul Whitsett (left) and Victor H. Rossetti (center) talk over old times with Board Chairman Joseph Jensen.

General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer (left) stands with former General Manager and Chief Engineer Julian Hinds before Weymouth memorial plaque. Both were long-time associates of Frank E. Weymouth.

F. E. Weymouth Memorial Ceremonies

District Goes Over Top In Red Cross Campaign

District employees went over the top this month in meeting their quota in the 1953 Red Cross fund raising campaign.

According to latest reports the District attained 110 per cent of its quota, and, in addition, it was the first group in the public employees section to surpass its quota.

Ruth Thiers, Secretary to the General Counsel, was chairman of the District's Red Cross activities. Working with Miss Thiers was Miriam Taylor, Assistant Controller, and William Eppinger, Asstistant Engineer.

District Water Plans

(Continued from Page Two)

ties of all Southern California, Mr. Butler emphasized, continues to be the job of protecting this State's established share of Colorado River water. Threats to this water supply from sources outside the State are in nowise diminished at this time, Mr. Butler pointed out, and the need for constant vigilance remains a grave necessity, he declared.

Weymouth Plant

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the tremendous task of directing the planning and building of the aqueduct system that is bringing a vitally important water supply from the Colorado River to the homes, factories and business firms of the people within the Metropolitan Water District. He passed away on July 22 of 1941, a few days after the aqueduct system in its first development had been successfully completed and placed in operation."

Mr. Diemer briefly reviewed the many years he served with Mr. Weymouth in the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation and later in the Metropolitan Water District. He drew attention to the fact that the District's original 13 cities have now increased to 48, and to the even more significant fact that the 1,600,000 people residing in the District 20 years ago have now increased to more than 4,000,000 men, women and children dependent upon Colorado River water.

"The very life of this great and populous region depends upon the maintenance of an adequate and dependable Colorado River water supply, and it is to the fulfillment of that assignment that we are here pledged as we dedicate this plant in the name of Frank E. Weymouth," said Mr. Diemer.

Director Rossetti emphasized the increasing and vital need of Southern California for Colorado River water, and praised Mr. Weymouth as a great leader and humanitarian.

"I knew Frank Weymouth as a great engineer, as a skillful and inspired executive, as a born leader, but most of all I knew him as a good, fine man and as a cherished friend," Mr. Rossetti said.

Mr. Whitsett, in his remarks, recalled the early formative years of the District when he served as the Chairman of the District Board and Mr. Weymouth was the General Manager and Chief Engineer.

Besides Mr. Whitsett, six other former Board members attended the ceremony. Their names and the cities they represented are: Arthur Taylor, Beverly Hills; C. A. Dickison, Compton; William M. Cook, Long Beach; Walter A. Ham, Los Angeles; Otto J. Emme, Los Angeles; Harry L. Heffner, San Marino.

Following the memorial ceremony, General Manager Diemer took members of the Board on an inspection tour of aqueduct construction work now under way. The tour included the Lake Mathews tunnel that will serve as a link in the new lower feeder to Orange County, and the Garvey reservoir in Monterey Park.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Congratulations to Owen Wilson, Senior Engineer, who on March 31 became a doting grandfather for the first time.

* * * *

Andrew (Andy) Gram, the District's Executive Secretary recently won first prize in the Balboa Yacht Club's photographic contest with his beautiful picture of two men in a sail boat. A print of the picture is now hanging in Andy's office.

* * * *

Names and pictures of employees who received twenty year service pins this month will appear in the next issue of the NEWS.

* * * *

William W. (Bill) Davey a District employee for 15 years left this month to operate a fishing camp in Oregon. At a party given by Softening and Filtration plant employees Bill, appropriately enough, was presented with a fine pair of fishing boots.

Evan L. Griffith, Construction Field Engineer (left) and William S. Merrithew, Resident Engineer in charge of the Garvey reservoir project, are kept busy these days supervising the work on the big construction job. Here they check over plans in the District's field office.